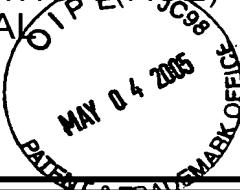


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REQUEST  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450



Application Number	09/854,556
Filing Date	May 15, 2001
First Named Inventor	Takahiro Tanioka
Art Unit	3621
Examiner Name	Firmin Backer
Attorney Docket Number	166539/00

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

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